

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on March 28, 2003, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1, 6-8, 13, and 14 are amended, claims 15-16 are canceled, and claims 17-19 are added; as a result, claims 1-14 and 17-19 are now pending in this application.

Affirmation of Election

As provisionally elected by Applicants representative, Pete Maki, on March 20, 2003, Applicant elects to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-14.

The claims of the non-elected invention, claims 15 and 16, are hereby canceled. However, Applicant reserves the right to later file continuations or divisions having claims directed to the non-elected inventions.

Claim Objections

Claim 14 was objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant has amended claim 14 to depend from claim 13.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(a) as being anticipated by Johnson et al. (US 6,309,130).

Claim 1 has been amended to better describe the subject matter recited in the claim. Applicant believes claim 1 is not anticipated by the cited reference since the reference does not include each limitation recited in the claim. For instance, a page including a printer paper sheet and a hinge strip mounted along an edge of the printer paper sheet, the hinge strip including a flexible portion and a mounting portion for mounting the page to an album, "wherein the hinge strip is securely attached to the paper sheet" such that "the paper sheet and the hinge strip combination are adapted to go through a printer together to provide a ready-to-bind printed page," as recited in claim 1. In contrast, Johnson et al. discuss a strip 10 which is mounted to a

document by a repositionable pressure sensitive adhesive. (Col. 4, lines 29-30). The strip is attached to a document before the document is stored in a binder. This leads away from the present claim which includes a strip securely attached to a paper sheet allowing the page to go through a printer with the hinge strip attached.

Moreover, the Office Action asserts that Johnson et al. teaches that the “paper sheet and hinge strip are adapted to go through a printer.” (Page 5 of Office Action). However, the portion of the reference that the Office Action refers to (Col. 5, lines 1-6) discusses that strip 10, itself, can be printed before being used. There is no discussion in Johnson et al. of the strip 10 and sheet being adapted to go through a printer “together” as claimed. The repositionable adhesive used by Johnson teaches away from such subject matter, since the Johnson strip would probably peel off if it was put through a printer. The present claim allows for a printer sheet with a hinge to be printed on to form a ready-to-bind photo page, for example. Such subject matter is not disclosed or suggested by the Johnson et al. reference.

Claim 8 has also been amended and Applicant believes the claim is not anticipated by the cited reference since the reference does not include each limitation recited in the claim. For instance, applicant cannot find in Johnson et al. a blank, printer paper sheet and a hinge strip including “a discrete mounting strip” for mounting to an album and “one or more discrete flexible connecting strips mounted between the mounting strip and the printer paper sheet” such that the hinge strip includes a flexible portion “defined by a gap between the mounting strip and the paper sheet” such that when the hinge strip is mounted to the printer paper sheet the hinge strip is bendable along the flexible portion, wherein the paper sheet and the hinge strip are adapted to go through a printer together to provide a ready-to-bind printed page, as recited in claim 8. In contrast, Johnson et al. discuss a single strip 10 mounted to a sheet. This does not provide the separate mounting and flexing portions of the present hinge strip. These allow the present hinge strip to allow a photo-printed bound page to turn flat and lie flat without stress when the page is bound in an album, for example. Again, the present claim provides for a ready-to-bind photo page which can be printed and immediately bound. This subject matter is not disclosed or suggested by the Johnson et al. reference.

Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 2-7 and 9-14 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson et al. (US 6,309,130). Claims 2-7 and 9-14 include each limitation of their respective parent claims and are not obvious over Johnson et al. for the reasons given above. Moreover, regarding claim 6, Applicant cannot find any suggestion in Johnson et al. of the subject matter of “wherein the hinge strip includes a mounting strip spaced apart from the edge of the printer paper sheet and connected to the printer paper sheet by a connecting tape strip.” Such subject matter is not disclosed by Johnson et al. Moreover, the Examiner has not provided a rationale for such subject matter as required by MPEP 2143. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612-359-3267) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743

Respectfully submitted,

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6/27/03

By

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O.Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 27 day of June, 2003.

Candis B. Buending

Name

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